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January 17, 2004

Ms. Marlene Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Public Safety Interference in the 800 MHz Band (Docket # WT 02-55)

Secretary Dortch,

The issue of 800 MHz interference is a growing problem. I am currently serving my ninth term with the Texas House of Representatives and it is of great concern to me that first responders in Bowie, Cass, Marion and Morris Counties are struggling to reliably communicate with each other due to garbled connections or lost calls.

First responders in District 1 have dedicated their lives to protecting the lives of others. There are more than 140,000 people in District 1 who rely on the effectiveness of our first responders. It seems only appropriate that we do everything possible to eliminate this dangerous problem. I understand that for the last two years the Commission has dedicated itself to finding a resolution. While I applaud your commitment to this matter, I ask that you take immediate action.

The public safety community has resolutely voiced their support of the Consensus Plan. This Plan will permanently solve the problem of interference and provide mission critical spectrum for public safety's growing communications needs. Equally important for first responders and the public, this effort is completely privately funded.

When the safety and effectiveness of first responders is in jeopardy, we need to act without delay. The Consensus Plan offers a comprehensive and proactive solution to this troubling problem. I urge the Commission to act expeditiously and implement the Consensus Plan. Public safety is simply too important to not do so.

Many thanks for your consideration.

Best regards,


Barry Telford
District 1, Texas House of Representatives